

## **Veterinarian – Senior**

Dairy Herd Diagnostic Program

Position # 333359

### **POSITION SUMMARY:**

This position is responsible for making advanced veterinary technical evaluations of dairy herds on a statewide basis as part of the department's stray voltage services. The position requires complex clinical exams and diagnostic procedures, and advanced evaluations of herd health problems, including mastitis, reproduction problems, nutrition, and other animal disease problems. The position is also required to evaluate milking systems and milking practices. These investigations and consultations require follow-up visits and telephone consultations and involve making recommendations to farmers to solve complex herd health problems. This position plays a lead role in technical consulting with farmers and their private veterinarians and other consultants, including personnel at the Public Service Commission and others.

This position works under the general supervision of the Supervisor for the Wisconsin Farm Center and the Bureau Director, Farm and Agribusiness Services and requires extensive independent judgment in performing the work.

### **GOALS AND WORKER ACTIVITIES:**

#### **45%    GOAL A: Provision of on-site farm consultations and investigations for the department's stray voltage services.**

- A1.    Serve as technical consultant to farmers, private veterinary practitioners, utilities, and other department and Farm Center personnel on animal health diagnosis, milking practices, nutritional management and animal behavior as these issues relate to potential stray voltage.
- A2.    Conduct on-farm herd health examinations and milking system evaluations, either as part of a stray voltage investigation or for individual consultations.
- A3.    Collect and refer appropriate samples obtained from animals, ration ingredients, and water sources for laboratory analysis to support diagnostic work.
- A4.    Coordinate with the Farm Center Supervisor in planning farm investigations or consultations.
- A5.    Coordinate with Farm Center Supervisor or farmer/private veterinarian to make follow-up telephone calls or visits to assist farmer in resolving herd health problems.
- A6.    Participate in department and Public Service Commission meetings to plan and evaluate program activities on an on-going basis.
- A7.    Collect data and information on visits for analysis and documentation of consultation activity.

#### **40%    GOAL B: Analysis and preparation of written reports on farm consultations and investigations.**

- B1.    Analyze data/information collected during herd health and management evaluations, including physical diagnostic findings, laboratory results, ration and water analyses, and milking system evaluations.
- B2.    Prepare written reports on findings to be sent to farmers along with recommendations to correct herd health and milking system problems.

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- B3. Conduct additional research and literature reviews as needed to support consulting work.
- B4. Follow-up and answer questions of farmers/veterinarians on consultation and recommendations.
- B5. Collect and report program/service data to the Farm Center Supervisor for evaluative purposes.

### **15% GOAL C: Education and informational program development and participation related to stray voltage issues.**

- C1. Determine specific educational program needs for farmers/veterinarians related to potential stray voltage issues.
- C2. Develop educational/ informational materials in consultation with UW Extension, UW School of Veterinary Science, and other organizations that will benefit farmers and veterinarians.
- C3. Plan and present information to farmers, veterinarians, and other groups on behalf of the Farm Center stray voltage cases.
- C4. Evaluate scientific literature on the effects of stray voltage and other electrical effects on animals.
- C5. Evaluate scientific and other literature on herd health problems that are likely to be found on farms involved in stray voltage cases.

### **Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities:**

- 1. Specialized knowledge or experience in dairy herd health.
- 2. Extensive knowledge of clinical and technical evaluation and diagnostic procedures for making herd health examinations. Specialized knowledge of mastitis prevention and diagnosis, milking management and milking equipment analysis, dairy cattle nutrition, housing, reproductive management, and diseases of dairy cattle are required. Well above average skills in physical diagnosis of dairy cattle and knowledge of dairy cattle behavior is also required.
- 3. Practical knowledge of the effects of stray voltage on dairy cattle.
- 4. Effective project and/or case management and evaluation skills.
- 5. Excellent analytical skills and knowledge of data collection and analysis procedures; this includes effective report development and record keeping skills – including electronic records.
- 6. Strong knowledge and skills in oral and written communications, including the ability to exercise tact, persuasion, and considerable patience to maintain cooperation.
- 7. Strong ability to use sound judgment and people skills when working in controversial situations.
- 8. Extensive knowledge of dairy farming practices and bovine health management is required.
- 9. Strong ability to work both independently and in cooperation with agency staff, farmers, utility representatives, private veterinarians, other consultants, university personnel, other personnel from other state or federal agencies, and a wide variety of organizations.

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10. Considerable skill at establishing and maintaining professional contacts; this includes ability to provide educational program and herd health information to a variety of parties (e.g., farmers, other veterinarians, program managers, external organizations such as the PSC, etc).

**Special Requirements:**

- 1) This position requires a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree; and possession of, or eligibility for, a valid license to practice Veterinary Medicine in the State of Wisconsin.
- 2) Valid driver's license or ability to provide one's own transportation for work purposes.

**PERSONAL CONTACTS AND THEIR PURPOSE:**

The position requires daily contacts with farmers, private veterinarians, other consultants, state and federal agency personnel, university personnel and a variety of organizations. Periodic appearances before the Public Service Commission and other entities may be required.

The position has wide discretion in planning work, performing work and making independent judgments about how to proceed with consultations and investigations.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

The majority of the position's time is spent in the field to complete herd health and other diagnostic assessments. In addition to field work, the position will spend a more limited amount of time on program and office related activities (e.g., report completion not done on site, electronic records management, etc.).

Travel and long hours are required in connection with field work. The position requires being on farms around farm animals in a variety of conditions, requiring the position holder to take necessary precautions expected under those conditions.

The position involves working with the farmers under stress and requires understanding of the conditions these farmers face and helpful communications with farmers.